

Bernal Journal

June Issue

Vol. 15 No. 3

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DISTRICT 9 COUNCIL

By
R.J. Dutra

A District Nine Community Council has been formed to bring about cooperation and communication among all the neighborhood, merchant and improvement organizations in district 9.

The Council is made up of 18 organizations from Bernal Heights, Diamond Heights, Glen Park, Miraloma Park, the Ingleside and Ocean View neighborhoods. It provides a conduit for information and recommendations from District 9 organizations to their elected and appointed representatives.

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month on a rotating basis. The April meeting was held at the Precita Center, the May meeting at the Miraloma Clubhouse and the

June meeting will be hosted by the Sherwood Forest Homeowners' Association.

Many subjects of common interest to District 9 residents have been discussed at the meetings, such as noise abatement, crime prevention, traffic
Cont. on Pg. 5.

ELSIE STREET PLAN PRESENTED TO CITY

On July 6th, the Elsie Street Plan will be considered by the City Planning Commission for final approval. The completed Plan, the product of a neighborhood study by the Northwest Bernal Block Club (NWBBC), was presented to the commission on May 18th. The presentation, attended by 75 Bernal Heights residents, was well received by the Commission. Among those attending were a few lot owners from outside the neighborhood, who had not previously participated in the Elsie Street process.

The Neighborhood Building Review Board is the most important part of the Elsie Street Plan to be considered by the Planning Commission at its July meeting. The Review Board, composed of neighborhood residents, would utilize the Plan's Building Criteria, i.e., design, energy, and cost guidelines, to ensure safe and compatible development on the 100 Block of Elsie St. It would guarantee that rational planning precedes development. This Board would actively work to preserve the architectural, integrated ethnic, and low and moderate income

Wayne and Janet Veatch bought this old photo from a street vendor in the Embarcadero. The picture is taken from Potrero Hill and looks southwest with Bernal Heights in the center. The approximate date of the picture is 1906.

character of our neighborhood. It would make sure that speculators could no longer develop in an unplanned and dangerous manner. It would also help communication between residents and conscientious developers and hasten the passage of these developers' plans through the permit process. The Board would guarantee a neighborhood voice in planning from the outset. Participation by all neighbors would be welcomed and encouraged.

Cont. on Pg. 8.

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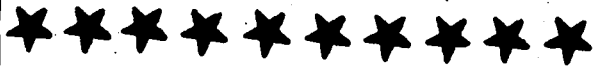
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BERNAL JOURNAL



The Bernal Journal is an open forum of the community sponsored by the Bernal Fund. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with neighborhood news, ideas, issues and events. Articles with by-lines express the views of the individual writers. Editorial decisions are made by the staff.

The next meeting of the Bernal Journal is Wednesday, July 5, 8 p.m. at 1621 York St. Anyone who would like to participate is invited.

EDITORS: Greg Catani and Phil Johnson
TREASURER: Jerry Schwartz
ADVERTISING: Rex Coultas and Lil Kruse
CONTRIBUTORS: Nancy Walker, Claudia Vieh and the Northwest Bernal Block Club.

Send any articles or letters to 1621 York St. or call 826-0842.

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EDITOR WANTED

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AD MANAGER WANTED

The Journal is also seeking a new advertising manager. The job pays a 10% commission on all ads sold. Call Phil or Greg at 826-0842.



NO ON PROP. 13

By
Phil Johnson

It has been the policy of this journal not to take an editorial position on any issue, viewing itself as a non-partisan community newspaper.

However the passage of Prop. 13, the Jarvis-Gann initiative, would do such harm to this community and every community in California that we strongly urge a No vote on Prop. 13 and a Yes vote on Prop. 8.

The Jarvis-Gann initiative is a superficial attempt at property tax reform that would largely benefit one small special interest group, large apartment building owners.

The passage of Jarvis Gann will export large sums of money out of the state and local economies in the form of increased federal income taxes and tax cuts to out-of-state owners of California real estate.

It will send shockwaves through the state's economy that will be felt for years to come. We have this on no less authority than the conservative economist Paul Samuelson, who literally wrote the book on economics. He is the author of the basic college economics text that is used almost exclusively in beginning economics courses.

We agree that property tax relief is long overdue, but it is overdue to the individual homeowner. On face value, Jarvis-Gann offers twice the reduction of Prop. 8 and the Behr bill, but the added reduction is illusory.

The average single family home in California is sold every five years, at which time its assessment base would rise to the sale price. For most homes in California this would bring their tax to higher levels than there are today.

In contrast the average apartment sells every 15 years. In the future more and more of the tax relief from the Jarvis-Gann initiative would flow into the hands of apartment owners and not to the individual homeowner, because apartment buildings on the average would be less frequently revalued through sale.

The Behr bill offers permanent reduction to only homeowners by increasing the homeowners tax deduction. It has additional benefits for senior citizens and it has a guaranteed tax credit for renters, who are totally ignored by Jarvis-Gann.

Most importantly, Jarvis -Gann has added features which will put a financial stranglehold on the larger cities in California, potentially causing New York City style bankruptcy. The initiative would require a two-thirds vote by "eligible" voters to pass any new local taxes. Eligible has been construed to mean registered. It is the rare election where 67% of the voters turnout, let alone unanimously vote for a new tax.

The bond industry has put a moratorium on the issuance of any municipal bonds in California until after the primary election. This was not an arbitrary decision, but strictly good business. You don't lend money to anyone without good credit. If Jarvis-Gann passes the cities' credit will run dry.

Polls indicate the Jarvis-Gann will pass. However if it is defeated, state and local governments will have one chance to show the voters that they have gotten the message. Spending cuts must be made, the property tax rates must go down to ensure the effectiveness of the Behr bill's tax reductions. If this does not happen, there will be another Jarvis-Gann in November and in every election after that until it is passed. We hope the politicians can see the handwriting on the wall and heed it.

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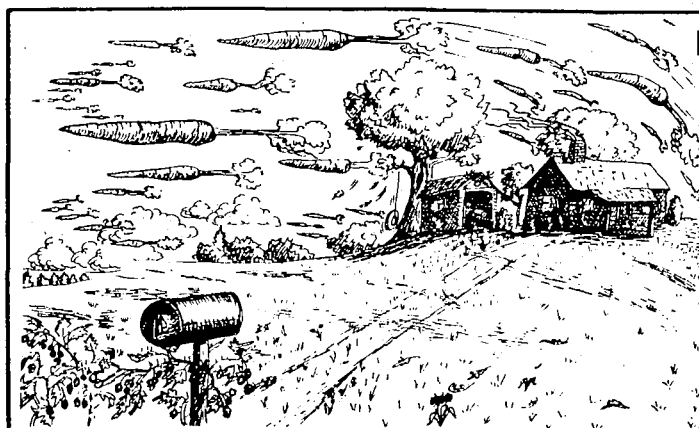
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Props J and K Explained

By

Jerry Schwartz and Rex Israel

Both Propositions J and K have to do with the regulation of taxicab permit sales in San Francisco. Proposition J limits the purchase price of taxicab permits, whereas Proposition K prohibits selling them altogether.

Traditionally, permit holders in San Francisco, including cab owners, have enjoyed the privilege of selling their permits at whatever price the market would bear. But both of these measures would prohibit such future types of sales in the taxicab business.

Although present taxicab permit holders have paid thousands of dollars for their permits, in addition to a one thousand dollar fee to the City each time a permit is transferred, if Proposition K were to pass, none of these present permit holders would ever be able to recoup his investment in the future. If for some reason a driver wanted to leave the taxicab business, his permit would revert back to the City and he would lose his entire investment. If Proposition J were to pass, at least each of the present permit holders would be able to reclaim the amount of money he paid for his permit, although he would have to wait five years to do so.

These new measures would seem to strike at the very heart of a free enterprise system--the right to buy and sell. Housing costs are also on the firing line. An anti-speculation housing transfer tax has been recently discussed which would similarly regulate resale value of private property. There seems to be a question of the constitutionality of these measures, and it is most likely that their passage would provoke lengthy and costly court battles.

Ironically, just six months ago, the City approved transfer of the permits belonging to the old bankrupt Yellow Cab Company when it was sold to the New Yellow Cab Cooperative (a cooperative of owner-drivers) and charged each permit holder a one thousand dollar transfer fee. Now the supporters of K want to say these permits can't be sold at all in the future, thereby wiping out the investments made by each of these co-op members.

A distinct disadvantage to the citizens of San Francisco would be occasioned by the passage of Proposition K which few voters realize. If K passes, a taxicab situation similar to what exists in New York City would develop in San Francisco, since cabs would no longer be able to be dispatched from a central headquarters. This would mean that passengers could only hail cabs on the streets and no longer be able to phone in their

orders as they do now.

Voters should study the issues carefully, and make sure they know what they're voting for before they go to the polls. The Voter Information Pamphlet gives a fairly good overview of both sides of the issues. We urge you to study it, ponder the pros and cons, but most of all--vote!

Mullen-Holladay Group Continues

By

R.J. Dutra

The Mullen-Holladay Group has a draft resolution before the San Francisco Planning Commission which calls for the preservation and protection of low density, moderate income housing on the eastern slope of Bernal Heights.

A survey of the populace of the eastern slope is being conducted by students from the University of California's Community Design Center. Residents are being polled for their ideas, opinions, problems and goals. Interviewers have been impressed with the diversity they have encountered among east slope residents.

Maps pinpointing problem areas, sub-standard city services, present land use, available open space and empty lots are also being prepared by the Design Center. All this will be used to develop a community oriented master plan for the future development of the eastern slope.

The Planning Commission has been asked by the Mullen-Holladay Group to recognize the study and to provide information and coordination necessary to make it a feasible plan.

A committee made of community representatives, the Planning, Public Works and Fire Departments, and representatives of the Mayor's and Supervisors' has been suggested to insure the master plan's success.

The group has requested that no building be allowed on sub-standard streets and that the Department of Public Works declare it in the public interest to go ahead with the improvements of these sub standard sections, including paving, curbs, sidewalks, street lights, sewers, water mains and fire hydrants.

Assemblyman Art Agnos has been asked to investigate the availability of Federal and State funds to help bring the long ignored eastern slope up to modern standards.

For the last five months the Mullen-Holladay group has worked to bring conditions on the eastern slope to the attention of various City departments and the public. The group has consistently claimed that planning must proceed

building in an area ill-prepared to handle multi-residential development.

Recently the construction of a single family house on Holladay Ave. landlocked two households by cutting off their vehicular access. A permit

was issued for this building without taking its impact upon the area into account. This resulted in great inconvenience for the two households, which now must enter and exit by way of foot paths.

The Mullen-Holladay Group was formed to avoid such situations, to insure that planning would proceed building and that the negative impact of new buildings in this area would be reviewed before permits are issued.

It is hoped that the City has finally realized that haphazard and unplanned building on the 130 vacant lots situated on the eastern slope will aggravate existing problems and create new ones.

A master plan suitable for an area characterized by low density and moderate priced housing is necessary to insure the safe and reasonable development of future housing on the eastern slope.

Fire Alert

June 1st marks the beginning of the annual Bernal Heights Fire alert. The winter rains have resulted in tall, thick growths of wild grasses and weeds. The sun and wind are rapidly drying out this growth.

The San Francisco Fire Department will begin burning off some sections in June pending approval from the Bay Area Air Pollution agency.

Residents are urged to cut and clear the dry grasses on or adjacent to their property. Open burning is not allowed in San Francisco County. Owners are responsible for the fire safety of their own property.

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the peril of our quest!
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Waves seeking to erode
the stubborn Rock.
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We choose the south face
(chicken!)
Sharp cold winds tear our eyes
We stop at half-way camp
Shaken--fearful
Ahead sharp taloned birds
Guardians of Sacred Peak
wheel and scream
We are tempted to give up our mad trip
Suddenly, out of dense engulfing mists,
a huge bellied figure!
"Welcome Fools!" he whispers
a sullen shout
"You have ventured into my domain--
the penalty will be..."
His voice falters--grows faint--
"Quick" he whispers "my spoon--fill it!"
He points to his pouch.
Trembling, fear-driven we obey
He raises the white-powdered spoon
to his nostrils.
Sniff--sniff--sniff--"Ho-Ho-Ho!"
"Ha-Ha-Ha!"
"I'm the 'abdomenal' Snow Man!"
Ya better scram 'fore I cream ya!"
Quick-prontevamose-adios
we're gone!
FRED STRICLAND

History of Northwest Bernal Block Club

By Margaret Randolph

My husband and I have lived in our home on Winfield Street since 1960--18 years. Since 1965 we have been involved in neighborhood activities of the Block Club.

Our block club in its early years was a part of the Bernal Heights Association and was called the Bernal Heights Association, Northwest Area. Presently we are called the Northwest Bernal Block Club.

From the start, our Block Club members have been active in bettering

and preserving our neighborhood.

In 1965 we homeowners on this hill discovered that the Arthur D. Little Company's report on Community renewal called for the "clearance and redevelopment of the rim of Bernal Heights ...affecting 350 units...all to be redeveloped." The Bernal Heights Association called for a special meeting asking the residents of Bernal Heights, "Are we truly a slum that must be leveled and replaced? Can't we rehabilitate ourselves, where necessary, just as we have started doing? Do you like the idea of moving and through increased taxes pay for this kind of planned madness? The time to protest is now. The final report will not be issued until we o.k. it."

And as you guessed, we most definitely had something to say about the planning of the hill. Everybody on the hill banded together and we stopped the redevelopment before it started.

But WE did not stop--we continued improving ourselves, such as the following: We requested the paving of one block of Elsie Street. We got a poorly constructed 16' wide path--nice for walking, but not for driving.

We had steps built where hills were too steep for streets. Lee Egger coaxed the city to give us trees and shrubs, which we planted along the streets and along the steps. We made plans for mini-parks. We're finally getting our mini-park equipment.

We raised neighborhood funds by holding annual fairs--six that I know of. And more recently three annual garage sales. We had Halloween parties for children. To protect children playing in the streets we installed speed bumps. We set up one-way traffic patterns. We established a youth employment agency for our teenagers who wanted to help.

We've always worked together to improve ourselves. We have and will work with planning agencies, but we don't want programs handed down from above that don't suit our needs or our desires. We are an independent, clear-thinking group of neighbors, with very definite ideas about what we want on our hill.

BHA Election Meeting

The Bernal Heights Association will be electing new officers at the June 12th meeting at the Precita Park Cafe. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

All BHA members and any interested residents are strongly urged to attend. A strong group of officers who will be able to organize this non-partisan community group during the coming year is needed.

Think about it. Perhaps it is your turn to contribute your time to the neighborhood.

BERNAL HEIGHTS

By
Nancy Walker
BHA President

I want to preface these "notes" by stating that the thoughts contained are my own and further that I have not discussed these at all -- with anyone.

Over the years the BHA has served a variety of purposes here on the hill. It has been active at times and at times it has been dormant. Since last spring we have attempted to draw people into the Association and to make it a vehicle for exchange of information and a time/place for people and groups to communicate their needs, ideas and activities with others. This has not worked for us.

1977-78 has seen an increase in organized activity on Bernal Heights. The BHA has been in limbo, that is, it has been peripheral to and barely played a supportive role in some very important community work. For instance: The Elsie Street Plan, the struggle of the Mullen-Holladay people over their neighborhood environment, the Community Board project, Project Safe, the Recycling Center, the Esmeralda steps and many more.

The BHA has done some valuable things: we held a candidates for last November's supervisorial elections, we have had several people come to meetings to speak on and lead discussion about some very important issues

like the school district's re-design plan, Muni route changes, and the Housing Coalition's anti-speculation ordinance. We have held meetings alternately on the North and South sides of the hill to make attendance easier. We have tried to outreach into the various ethnic and cultural communities in our neighborhood. We have helped move the multi-purpose neighborhood center a little closer to becoming real and the BHA played a key role in organizing the District Nine Community Council. However, I feel that we have not found the key to creating a viable and unified neighborhood association.

It seems that every organization must occasionally pause and take the time to re-examine and evaluate its purpose and its ability to accomplish work. I believe the BHA needs to undergo such an examination and perhaps consider whether it meets the needs of this neighborhood and, in fact, if the need for the BHA continues to exist. Maybe the BHA has become unnecessary, at least in its present form.

In the last few months, we have been lucky if 15 people came to a meeting. I believe there are at least two primary reasons for this lack of interest: 1). active people here do not come to meetings just for the sake of coming to a meeting and a lot of our neighbors have to work real hard to simply survive, and 2). we have not been able to find activity or tasks appropriate to the BHA. A third possibility is that there has not been

any real leadership.

I believe that the need exists for some kind of all-Bernal, multi-purpose, multi-interest group to bring together people from around the Hill for the purpose of information exchange and mutual support between neighbors for a variety of reasons and actions.

The June BHA meeting will be on the North side at the Precita Park Cafe. There was no May meeting because we simply could not get it together. The June meeting will be on Monday, June 12th and it will begin at 7:30 p.m. The primary agenda items are election of officers for the coming year and consideration of revised by-laws. I hope at this meeting we will also begin to grapple with questions about what is the BHA, what is its function and why -- if -- we need the BHA. I hope that many of you will come and share your thoughts and ideas about the future of the Bernal Heights Association.

BHA Members

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Bernal Gym Banquet



The fifth annual banquet of the Bernal Gym was held on Saturday May 20 at the gym off Cortland Street. Percy Dillon, director of the gym was the host of the affair. Once again under Percy's direction the teams from Bernal have done very well in the city-wide competition.

In football, the 70's were undefeated city champs. They beat Oceanview in the finals, 31-7. Craig Maxwell, who scored three touchdowns, was named most valuable player.

The 90's football team similarly won the city championship with an undefeated season. They defeated Hunters Point in the championship game by a score of 13-7. Raymond McCowan was named most valuable player.

In basketball the 15 and unders

finished in a three way tie for first place in the Portola League. In the city tournament they finished runner-up to Oceanview. Qunetin Green was named most valuable player for Bernal.

In the 11 and unders division, the team from the gym lost in the first round of the city tournament. Craig Maxwell was named the most valuable player of the tournament player of the team.

Also in the past year two representatives from Bernal Heights travelled to LA to compete in the Jesse Owens track meet at UCLA last August. The Runners, Craig Maxwell and Daniel Farr were on the 440 relay team.

The success of the banquet was largely due to the help and effort of many volunteers. These included,

Mrs. Rhodes, the chairperson, Mrs. Maxwell, Mrs. McCowan, Mrs. Walker, Mr. Rauls, Mrs. Batiste, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Brewer and many more.

The upcoming schedule for the Bernal gym is as follows: baseball leagues for 17 and unders, 15 and unders, 13 and unders, and 11 and unders to begin in July; The Pepsi Cola basketball league for 18 and unders and 15 and unders; a house basketball league for 13 and unders to begin in July; also there will be Thursday outings for 14 and unders. Anyone interested in any of the programs should contact Percy at the gym for further information.

Library Notes

Bernal Branch Public Library Programs for June 1978.

1. Building with the Sun: Alan Van Fleet of the Alternative Energy Co-op in Berkeley will describe the practical aspect of solar energy use in a talk-demonstration illustrated by slides of his wide experience in solar energy projects. Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m.
2. Neighborhood Arts Program Poetry Reading: Alma Villanueva, winner of a Chicano literary prize from UC Irvine and Leslie Simon, a teacher at City College, both Bernal Heights people, will read their poetry. Wed. June 14, 7:00 p.m.
3. Patients' rights: a videotape and discussion with staff members of the San Francisco Women's Health Center. The program will cover patient's rights, informed consent, what is included in a good physical examination, and in general encourages people to participate in their own health care. Wednesday, June 21, 7:00 p.m. 4:00

4. New Comedy Films: The Mad Baker (an animated spoof of Frankenstein the

Monster), Pay Day, (a newly released Chaplin classic), Self Service (parody of greed and the misuse of resources), Sergeant Swell (a spoof of the stereotype Mountie hero). Wednesday, June 28, 7:30 p.m.

All programs are open to everyone and FREE.

East Slope Meeting at Precita Center

Regular meetings of the various eastern slope neighborhood block clubs and interested residents will be held every other Thursday at the Precita Center, 534 Precita Ave. at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be June 1st.

The meetings will be coordinated with the U.C. Community Design Center's study of the area and will allow the in-pur of ideas and suggestions from all eastern slope residents.

A master plan for the reasonable and feasible future development of low density, moderate priced housing with the accompanying city services is the goal of the Design Center's study.

District Meeting

Cont. from Pg. 1.

problems, building permit delays, lack of representation on City commissions and agencies, development controversies, preferential parking, Muni route changes, and the much debated Jarvis-Gann initiative.

Supervisor Lee S. Dolson has attended the last two meetings at the Precita Center and the Miraloma Clubhouse. He has listened to the issues being raised, and offered his comments and suggestions.

At the May 25th meeting he listened to the debate on Jarvis-Gann and then urged people to vote according to their conscience.

Dolson believes a yes vote on Prop. 13 will reflect the taxpayers' anger over high taxes and government spending. He predicted that Mayor Moscone would declare a city state of emergency if the proposition passes and that the issue would end up in court.

The June 22 meeting will include election of officers and final approval of the constitution and by-laws. Resolutions concerning future appointments to City commissions and boards and the building permit process will also be on the agenda.

Geriatric Halfway House Possible for Bernal Heights

A community meeting will be held Monday evening, June 12, at 7:30 PM, at St. Kevin's Church, to discuss the development of a new transitional residence for emotionally disturbed seniors who live in the Southeast and Mission districts of San Francisco. Progress Foundation, a non-profit community mental health agency and contractor for the project, hopes to locate the residence, which will serve a maximum of six persons, in Bernal Heights. The meeting will be held to answer questions about the project, hear community concerns, and seek support in finding a suitable site.

The program, which is funded by a federal grant to the Southeast Community Mental Health Center, is intended to provide non-hospital, non-institutional residential treatment for those elderly people who are confused, disoriented, in crisis, or severely depressed and who would otherwise end up in nursing homes or hospitals because of the lack of suitable alternatives. The goals of the program will be to counsel and support its residents to help them to return to the highest levels of independent living and functioning possible--whether alone, with family, or in a co-operative living arrangement with others.

Seth Katzman, the project's director, said that the project will eventually include two six-bed programs, and that Bernal Heights is a promising area for one of the houses, "because of the close neighborhood feeling, the high level of concern among Bernal residents for the poor and disadvantaged, and neighborhood's quiet and relative lack of traffic--all pluses for elderly people."

The program will employ a wide range of staff members, from medical professionals to geriatric experts to counselors experienced in working with the elderly. Preference will be given

to hiring staff who reside in the Southeast and Mission districts, and it is hoped that much of the staff will reflect the age range served by the house.

Many citizens and professional groups, including the President's Commission on Mental Health, have deplored the lack of mental health services available to the geriatric population of this country, according to Katzman. "We hope that this program will be a first step in remedying the lack of residential alternatives available to

the elderly mentally ill in San Francisco," he said.

The meeting at St. Kevin's, which is located at 704 Cortland, will be open to all interested members of the community. Questions may also be directed to Seth Katzman, Progress Foundation, 668-0621.

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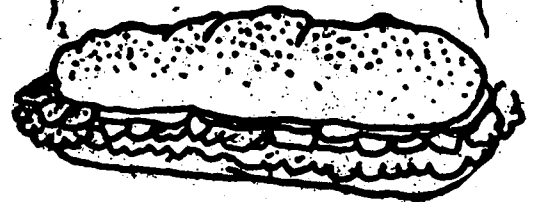
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Poetry Reading

There will be a poetry reading at the Bernal Heights Branch Library on June 14 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m..

The reading is sponsored by the San Francisco Art Commission and will feature Alma Villanueva, author of Blood Root, and Leslie Simons, author of Jazz is for White Girls Too. Villanueva won the 1977 U.C. Irvine Chicano Literary Award and Simon is the co-ordinator of Poetry for the People on KPOO FM radio.

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COMMUNITY BOARD

MEMBER INTERVIEWED

Last fall Martin Harrington saw a flyer announcing the Community Board Program. The Program was looking then--as it will be again in the months ahead--for people to serve as panelists. Martin remembers thinking then, "Hmmm, sounds like an interesting idea." As a platoon leader in the army, he'd often had to help guys in his unit work out their differences. And being a junior high school teacher, he spends a lot of his time working through kids' hassles with each other. The idea of a program in which neighbors got together to work out problems in the community sounded good to him. And it was a chance for Martin, who'd just moved to Bernal Heights, to get to know some of his neighbors. So he went to the selection meeting at St. Kevin's Church and took the six training sessions in November and December of last year.

Martin liked the training. In a recent interview he told us, "I was really impressed with the training. It was excellent. I go to lots of training workshops for teaching. I thought this was the best training I've had in anything. If I'd known how good it was going to be, I'd have been willing to pay for it. It was really worth the time and energy I put in."

"I liked the way the whole thing was presented. The trainers said, 'Here are the basic skills you will need to do the hearings, but they are also useful in the rest of your life. Look at your own life and figure out how you can use them.' I find that I consciously use them a lot in my work with the kids. I've taught some of them to use the skills like active listening in running their meetings or when they have problems with each other. They have worked well."

"And in my personal life, I've used the listening and other skills in situations where the emotions get hot and communication begins breaking down. I've also used them in dealing with my superiors. The training reinforced my ability to step back for a moment and see objectively what's happening in a situation. I think if someone had a chance to do the training, they'd find that they use the skills a lot beyond the program."

Once the training was finished, Martin sat with four other neighbors at his first panel hearing. What was it like? Martin says, "I was pretty nervous about the first one. I wondered whether it would all work or if it was a good theory that just wouldn't pan out. But it really went according to the book. The problem was resolved, people felt good about it and we did well as a panel. The model I had in my head worked out--and that doesn't happen very often in life."

"The panel worked real well together. It was a diverse group, but it jelled very well. This hearing gave us confidence to do some of the later, more difficult hearings. I was impressed with the level of trust

and cooperation on the panel. That's a nice thing to be part of. That sense of teamwork is rare and enjoyable. I really liked the sense of respect people had for each other. After a while there was a sense of 'Hey, these are really good people.' Although I wasn't sure at first that everyone in the group would pick up on the training, I've been impressed that everyone has made contributions. And that's good to see also. It has given me a lot of renewed faith in the idea of democracy, in people. You don't need a Ph.D to contribute. The average person is in a good position to deal with the world around him. They aren't so invested in particular solutions and they don't have so much to protect."

Martin was also impressed with the panel's ability to stay solution-oriented and not get hung up on questions of guilt. I wouldn't have guessed that people could do that so well. One thing that makes the whole program work is that the people who come really want a solution. They want the problem resolved. They deserve a lot of the credit."

Cont. on Pg. 8.

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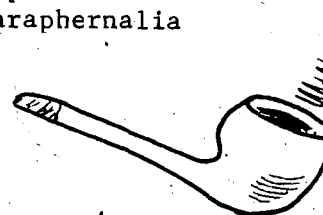
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Cont. from Pg. 7.

Martin thinks that "not all the kinds of problems that could be dealt with by a panel have been heard so far. As the program becomes more visible, people will bring it more problems. Any neighbor problem would be appropriate--fights between neighbors, consumer problems, hassles between the neighbors and youth. It's not the kind of problem that's key--it's just that whatever comes must have two identifiable sides."

He thinks that the program has a bright future. "Because it's solution-oriented, it will spread to other areas. A lot of the institutions around that should solve problems don't. For example, I know of a woman who called the police because she was having a fight with her husband. So they arrested him for parking tickets. They're bound by their institution and way of dealing with things and unable to deal with the real problem. I think this program will help keep things out of court that don't belong there."

"My other thought about the future is that it's important that panelists don't sit for a long period of time. They shouldn't become a group that solves people's problems for them. When the panel stops becoming a group of neighbors helping each other out, it won't work as well. There are plenty of other things ex-panelists can do to help the program."

Martin himself has just joined the Board of Directors as a community representative, and he looks forward to becoming involved in the training of new panelists. He encourages anyone who is interested in becoming a panelist to contact the staff at the office at 907 Cortland. "I recommend this work as community

ELSIE STREET PLAN

Cont. from Pg. 1.

Most vocal against the Plan was Richard Alvarez, the developer who owns 7 lots on Elsie St. He was supported by a speaker from the Residential Builders Assoc.

The Commission also rejected Mr. Alvarez's partial street widening plan for Elsie St., ruling that it was inadequate due to its piecemeal nature.

Although final decision on the plan will be made July 6th, preliminary discussions with the Planning Dept. have produced substantial agreement on basic parts of the Plan:

- Street improvement plan for 100 Block: support for comprehensive improvement of the street. The block club's proposal is currently under study in the Dept. of Public Works.
- Neighborhood Notification and the Permit Process: Written notice by mail of all occupants within a certain radius; written notice by mail, to anyone submitting their name, regarding any intended construction on Ber-

service and as something valuable for the people who do it. It's a real learning experience and I don't think you can help but be positively changed by it. If nothing else, you'll learn that you can do it and become more confident about yourself and people like yourself in the community."

nal Heights; Posting at beginning of permit application process, rather than at the completion, as is now the practice.

- Building Criteria for New Construction: the Dept. has tentatively approved the Plan's guidelines, with some still under discussion.

Other parts of the Plan are currently under discussion with the Office of Community Development, including proposals for developing low and moderate income housing, and the Bernal Heights Revolving Loan Program.

To get information on the Plan or the July 6th Planning Commission meeting, call 648-2809. To obtain a copy of the Plan, call 282-9153.

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lifications for elevation to superior court. Her election is doubly important because no woman has served on this court since 1961.

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